

## RELIEF ASSISTANCE

*Exchanges of notes at Washington February 18 and 24, 1947, and at  
Bucharest February 20 and 22, 1947  
Entered into force February 22, 1947  
Terminated upon fulfillment of its terms*

Department of State files

*The Secretary of State to the Romanian Minister*

FEBRUARY 18, 1947

The Secretary of State presents his compliments to the Honorable the Minister of Rumania, and, with reference to recent conversations between the Minister and various officials of the United States Government concerning emergency famine conditions in Rumania, has the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a statement which has been released to the press by the President of the United States.

The United States representative in Bucharest is being instructed to inform the Rumanian Government of this action and to request that, in view of the urgency of the matter, the Rumanian Government furnish the assurances desired by the United States Government within forty-eight hours. The nature of the assurances the United States seeks, some of which have already been made known to the Minister orally, may be recapitulated as follows:

In the first instance, the United States Government wishes an expression of the willingness of the Rumanian Government to furnish to the Rumanian Red Cross such facilities and assistance as that organization will require in effecting the immediate handling and distribution, under supervision of the American Red Cross, of 4,500 tons of rations and 2,500 tons of beans to the starving people of Moldavia without delay and without political, racial, social, or religious discrimination. Secondly, with regard to allocations of cereal grains for purchase by Rumania and in order that such allocations, as well as remaining indigenous food, may be utilized effectively to prevent the recurrence of the present emergency situation, the United States Government requests that it be assured, with equal urgency, that so long as the existing famine continues:

- 1) Rumania will not employ any grain for the payment of reparations.
- 2) Rumania will not export or permit the export of any grain from Rumania for the repayment of grain loans from other countries, for trade purposes, or for any other reasons.
- 3) United States representatives in Rumania will be free to observe, in such manner as they see fit, the distribution within Rumania of grain from United States sources, which distribution will likewise be effected without political, racial, religious, or social discrimination, and
- 4) any seed grains from United States sources shall be used for their intended purpose within Rumania.

If these assurances are forthcoming, the United States contemplates supplementing the allocations of 17,000 tons of corn and 24,500 tons of seed grains already granted by the International Emergency Food Council for March with additional quantities of 17,000 tons monthly of corn in succeeding months until conditions in Rumania ameliorate.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,  
WASHINGTON, *February 18, 1947*

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*The Romanian Minister to the Secretary of State*

ROYAL LEGATION OF ROMANIA  
*Washington, D.C.*

The Minister of Romania presents his compliments to the Honorable Secretary of State and, with reference to recent conversations between the Minister and various officials of the United States Government, concerning famine emergency conditions in Romania, and in answer to the State Department's note of February 18, 1947, has the honor to inform the Honorable Secretary of State that he has been authorized to transmit Him the assurances desired by the Government of the United States of America to be granted by the Royal Romanian Government.

These assurances run as follows:

1. Romania undertakes not to export or allow any quantity of grain to be exported from Romania for the payment of reparations or loans in grain made in any other country, for trade or any other purposes, as long as the existing famine conditions continue.
2. The Romanian Government will supply the representatives of the United States in Romania with all statistical data and information concerning the distribution of the grain sent by the United States, as well as with a daily situation of this distribution, on the basis of a procedure established by common agreement.

The distribution of the grain will be carried out without any political, social, racial or religious discrimination.

3. All grain seed sent by the United States will be used within Romania.

4. In order to obtain the credits required for the purchase of grain and to settle definitively all claims on German gold made by any countries concerned, the Romanian Government agrees to hand over to the United States, as mandatory of the aforesaid countries, the quantity of fifteen thousand kilograms of gold of German origin.

The Minister of Romania avails himself of this opportunity to renew to the Honorable the Secretary of State the expression of His highest consideration.

WASHINGTON D.C., February 24, 1947

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*The American Mission to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs*

THE UNITED STATES MISSION  
BUCHAREST, RUMANIA

FEBRUARY 20, 1947

The United States Mission presents its compliments to the Royal Ministry for Foreign Affairs and has the honor to refer to recent conversations between the Rumanian Minister at Washington and various officials of the United States Government concerning emergency famine conditions in Rumania and to transmit a copy of the statement released to the press by the President of the United States.

The Mission has been instructed to inform the Rumanian Government of the action taken by the President of the United States and to request that, in view of the urgency in the matter, the Rumanian Government furnish the assurances desired by the United States Government within 48 hours.

The nature of the assurances which the American Government seeks may be recapitulated as follows:

Firstly, the United States Government wishes an expression of the willingness of the Rumanian Government to furnish to the Rumanian Red Cross such facilities and assistance as that organization will require in effecting the immediate handling and distribution under the supervision of the American Red Cross, of 4,500 tons of rations and 2,500 tons of beans to the starving people of Moldavia without delay and without political, racial, social or religious discrimination.

Secondly, with reference to cereal grain allocations for purchase by Rumania and in order that such allocations, as well as remaining indigenous food, may be utilized effectively to prevent the recurrence of the present emer-

gency situation, the United States Government requests that it be assured, with equal urgency, that, so long as the existing famine continues

- (1) Rumania will not employ any grain for the payment of reparations;
- (2) Rumania will not export or permit the export of any grain from Rumania for the repayment of grain loans from other countries, for trade purposes, or for any other reason;
- (3) United States representatives in Rumania will be free to observe, in such manner as they see fit, the distribution within Rumania of grain from United States sources, which distribution will likewise be effected without political, racial, religious or social discrimination, and
- (4) Any seed grain from United States sources shall be used for their intended purposes within Rumania.

If these assurances are forthcoming, the United States contemplates supplementing the allocations of 17,000 tons of corn and 24,500 tons of seed grains already granted by the International Emergency Food Council for March with additional quantities of 17,000 tons monthly of corn in succeeding months until conditions in Rumania are ameliorated.

THE ROYAL MINISTRY  
FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
*Bucharest*

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*The Ministry for Foreign Affairs to the American Mission*

ROYAL MINISTRY  
FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

The Royal Ministry for Foreign Affairs presents its compliments to the United States Mission and in reference to its note of February 20, 1947, has the honor to inform it that the Roumanian Government wishes in the first place to express all its gratitude to the United States Government for the assistance which the American people are unhesitatingly lending to the Roumanian people at one of their most difficult hours.

With respect to the guarantees that the United States Government demands of the Roumanian Government, the Royal Ministry for Foreign Affairs informs the United States Mission that already on February 20, 1947, it has authorized the Roumanian Minister in Washington to make the following statement to the Department of State:

Roumania undertakes not to export or to permit the export from Roumania of any quantity of cereal grain in payment of reparations or of grain loans procured from any other country for commercial purposes or toward any other end, as long as the present famine continues.

The Roumanian Government will hold at the disposal of the United

States representatives in Roumania all data or information as well as an up-to-date survey of distributions of grain originating in the United States, under a procedure settled by mutual agreement. Such distribution will be effected without any political, social, racial or religious discrimination.

Any seed grain originating from the United States will be used within Roumania.

With a view to obtaining the necessary credit for the purchase of cereal grain and for the final liquidation of claims to German gold of any of the nations concerned, the Roumanian Government agrees to cede to the United States, as mandatory of such States, a quantity of 15 tons of gold of German origin.

BUCHAREST, *February, the 22, 1947*

TO THE UNITED STATES MISSION  
*In Bucharest*

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*The American Mission to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs*

THE UNITED STATES MISSION  
BUCHAREST, RUMANIA

The Mission of the United States of America presents its compliments to the Royal Ministry for Foreign Affairs and with reference to the announcement by the President of the United States of February 17, 1947, concerning the dispatch of relief supplies for the people of Moldavia, has the honor, on instructions from the Government of the United States, to bring the following to the attention of the Royal Ministry.

The American Red Cross, upon whom responsibility rests for the distribution of these supplies, will require on the part of the Rumanian Government a guarantee that the Government will provide immediate and adequate handling at the port of unloading as well as proper warehousing and protection, all necessary transportation being made available through the Rumanian Red Cross. The American Red Cross will also require on the part of the Rumanian Government a waiver of customs duties on these relief supplies and approval of the immediate entry into Rumania of a small additional staff of Red Cross representatives to assist in the supervision of the distribution of the supplies.

The Mission would appreciate receiving from the Royal Ministry an urgent indication of its concurrences with the above requests.

BUCHAREST, *February 20, 1947*

THE ROYAL MINISTRY  
FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
*Bucharest*

*The Ministry for Foreign Affairs to the American Mission*ROYAL MINISTRY  
FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRSBUCHAREST, *February 22, 1947*

The Royal Ministry for Foreign Affairs presents its compliments to the United States Mission and in relation to its note of February 20, 1947, regarding the statement of February 17, of the President of the United States and the sending of relief for the population in Moldavia, has the honor to inform it that as soon as it had taken note of the assistance of the United States Government, that has been organized through the American Red Cross, the Roumanian Government has not failed to take urgent steps in order that the mission in Roumania of the American Red Cross may be accomplished in accordance with the specifications contained in the note of February 20.

The Royal Ministry for Foreign Affairs wishes to mention that the President of the Council of Ministers has attended personally to the solution of this matter.

To the UNITED STATES MISSION  
*In Bucharest*